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IN THE PRESIDIUM OF THE ACADEMY OF  
MEDICAL SCIENCES OF THE USSR

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IN THE PRESIDIUM OF THE ACADEMY OF  
MEDICAL SCIENCES OF THE USSR.

Following is the translation of an article  
entitled "V Prezidiume AMN SSSR" (English  
version above) by M.A. Ivanova in Vestnik  
Akademii Meditsinskikh Nauk SSR (Herald of  
the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR).  
Vol 15, No 4, Moscow, 1960. pages 91-93.7

On 7 October 1959, the Presidium approved the following program of the second All-Union Scientific Conference on Medical Radiology, planned for June 1960: (1) the use of radioactive isotopes and radiation for diagnostic purposes (Prof M.N. Fateyeva - in charge of the project); (2) the use of radioactive isotopes and radiation in treatment (Prof G.A. Zedgenidze - in charge of the project); (3) the problem of subsequent non-immediate effects of the biological action of radiation in instances of diagnostic measures and treatment (Prof M.N. Pobedinskiy in charge); (4) modern radiological techniques and problems of dosimetry of ionizing radiation (Doctor of Medical Sciences M. P. Domshlak); (5) organizational questions: (a) prospects for the development of clinical radiology in the USSR; (b) preparation of personnel in the field of medical radiology; (c) guaranteeing the availability of modern apparatus and equipment, of radioactive isotopes and radiation sources in radiological institutions; (d) the goals and tasks of the All-Union Society of Roentgenologists and Radiologists in the present stage of development of medical radiology.

The Presidium heard and discussed a report made by the head of capital construction (V.V. Skobeling) on the fulfillment of the plan of capital construction of the AMN (Academy of Medical Sciences) USSR for the nine months of the year 1959. The extensive work that has been carried out

by the section entrusted with the fulfillment of the plan of capital construction, especially of housing construction, was noted by the Presidium.

The Presidium confirmed the appointment of Doctor of Medical Sciences, Prof S.M. Grombakh as assistant director of the scientific section of the Institute of Child and Teenage Hygiene of the AMN USSR.

The Presidium also confirmed the decision of the credentials commission and of the scientific council of the Institute of Experimental Medicine, AMN USSR, concerned with the granting of a graduate scholarship to V.F. Puchkov.

A.V. Roslavytsev, Director of the State Institute of Eye Diseases imeni Gel'mgol'ts, delivered a report "Concerning the Plan of Measures Leading to the Liquidation of Trachoma in the USSR" at a meeting of the Presidium on 21 October 1959.

According to him, there exist at the present time in the USSR all the prerequisite conditions for the liquidation of trachoma in the course of the next seven years. This has already been achieved by a number of republics and oblasts, where work now is being carried out toward the final health rehabilitation of the populace of Belorussian SSR, Mordvin ASSR, Udmurt Skaya ASSR, and Chelyabinskaya, Kuybyshevskaya, and Gor'kovskaya oblasts). Work against trachoma is carried out not only by oculists; all of the medical network participates in it actively, including public and Komsomol organizations, and the Red Cross Society.

A.V. Roslavytsev noted the unsatisfactory situation existing with regard to the incidence of trachoma in certain areas of the Turkmen, Uzbek, and Tadzhik SSRS, and the RSFSR. The following members participated in discussion concerned with the report: Sh.D. Moshkovskiy, M.P. Chumakov, A.A. Letavet, V.D. Timakov, V.V. Parin, I.V. Darydorskiy, P.G. Sergiyev, V. Kh. Vasilenko, A.N. Bakulev.

The assistant chairman of the Commission of the Coordination of Scientific Research in the field of Study of the Problem of Cancer of the AMN USSR? Prof A.I. Serebrov, reported on the planned measures in that area (28 October). In order to facilitate a broader development of scientific research and in order to draw into this work institutions within the system of the Ministry of Public Health USSR, and also of the Academies of Sciences of the Union Republics, the Presidium had decided to go before the Council of Ministers USSR with a request concerning the organization of a national committee on cancer. The Presidium had obligated the leading institute on the cancer problem--the Institute of Oncology AMN USSR-- to organize, in the course

of 1960, the selection of personnel to be occupied with the working out of the problem of cancer in the USSR, and to submit to the Presidium of the AMN USSR a list of institutions which in 1961 must be drawn into the work on this problem as a matter of active planning. The Presidium entrusted the assistant chairman of the commission, A.I. Serebrov, to conduct co-ordinational conferences in 1960-61 on problems such as the immunology of tumors, application of electronics in scientific research, employment of isotopes in oncological research, and the organization of work against cancer as well as of work concerned with the regional peculiarities of the incidence of malignant tumors.

The Scientific Planning Commission of the Presidium examined the main directions of scientific research, as well as the organizational measures proposed by the commissions on problems, accompanied by a recapitulation of the results of the 1958 research and the detected shortcomings of the plan for 1959, as well as of the recommendations for the 1960 plan. Prof I.V. Davydovskiy, vice-president of AMN USSR, in his capacity as chairman of the Scientific Planning Commission of the Presidium, reported on "Suggestions with Regard to the Facilitation of the Work on the Principal Problems of Soviet Medical Science in 1960" (11 November 1959).

Prof G.F. Gauze reported on the results of the campaign for the wide adoption in medical practice of a new antibiotic substance (colemycin), which had been obtained in the Institute of Development of New Antibiotics AMN USSR. He said that the work aimed at the acceptance of colemycin in practical medical work had been completed in 1959.

The medical industry has fully mastered the mass production of colemicine and produces this antibiotic in quantities assigned by the plan. The results of extensive testing of the effectiveness of colemycin in the treatment of children afflicted by colienteritis in the medical institutions of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Khar'kov, and other cities testify to the high therapeutic value of this preparation.

The use of colemycin in the treatment of colienteritis and of acute intestinal afflictions of young children, especially during the early stages of affliction, makes it possible to achieve a significant lowering of the mortality rate among those patients. The testing of colemycin in instances of surgical intervention was carried out in a number of clinical institutions under the leadership of Professors A.N. Bakulev, I.G. RUFANOV, N.N. Yelanskiy, A.A. Vishnevskiy, N.N. Priorov, P.L. Seltsovskiy and others, and

has demonstrated its high effectiveness as a substance which permits the avoidance of septic complications after surgery connected with the resection of the intestinal tract. Highly positive therapeutic results were obtained in the colemycin treatment of festering afflictions of the skin, as well as of eczemas and neurodermitis complicated by a second biogenetic infection. The Presidium decided to request that the Minister of Public Health USSR should note the extensive and fruitful work of the collective of associates of the Institute of Development of New Antibiotics of the AMN USSR, as well as the work of the workers in the medical industry and in medical institutions; work on the creation of a new antibiotic colemycin, on the conduct of clinical tests, and on the assimilation of the production of this antibiotic as well as on its adoption in wide medical practice.

Lively discussion was generated by a report of the active member AMN USSR, Prof F.G. Krotkov, "On the Reestablishment of Social Hygiene as a Science and an Academic Subject" (18 November 1959). He stated that, in the course of the last years, the question of the unsatisfactory state of scientific research and of the teaching of social hygiene in the Soviet Union was raised repeatedly in the press, at conferences, and in congresses. The 13th All-Union Congress of Hygienists, Epidemiologists, Microbiologists, and Infection Specialists has made a special decision on the necessity of transforming the Chair of Public Health organization into the Chair of Social Hygiene, as well as the strengthening and enhancement of their role in the training of Soviet doctors. The problem of life and health conditions and of the interrelationship of social and biological phenomena has always been one of the principal problems of Soviet medicine. None of the pressing problems of modern medicine can be solved without involving the consideration of social-hygienic problems.

F.G. Krotkov noted that the necessity of the reestablishment of departments of social hygiene and of the broadening of scientific work in this area is also dictated by the growing international ties. The following members participated in the discussion of the report: B.G. Yerogov, M.I. Barsukov, B.Ya. Smulevich, B.D. Petrov, S.M. Bagdasaryan, A.M. Mernov, Ye.D. Ashurkov, G.A. Batkis, S.A. Sarkisov, V.Kh. Vasilenko, I.V. Davydovskiy.

The Presidium resolved: to request the Minister of Public Health USSR, S.V. Kurashov, to deal with, at the meeting of the Collegium of the Ministry, the question of the reestablishment of social hygiene as a section of general hygiene and as an academic subject.

On the 25th of November 1959, the Presidium heard and discussed the reports submitted by Prof M.P. Chumakov and A.A. Smorodintsev and by Doctor of Medical Sciences O.V. Baroyan, dealing with the results of the study of living attenuated poliomyelitis vaccine.

The broad resolution on the reports, which was adopted by the Presidium, noted that from May to November 1959, new additional data on the good endurance qualities, areaktirnost, harmlessness, and immunological effectiveness of peroral vaccinations with live vaccine have been received.

According to the findings of M.P. Chumakov and A.A. Smorodintsev, the mass vaccinations completed in June in the Estonian, Lithuanian, Latvian, and Belorussian republics have led to a lowering of the incidence of poliomyelitis in those republics during the months of summer and fall (June-October) to the extent of some 10-16.6 times. The Presidium approved the sum-results of extensive work dealing with the study of live vaccine and of its mass employment for anti-poliomyelitis prophylaxis conducted by the Institute of Poliomyelitic Studies AMN USSR, by the virology section of the Institute of Experimental Medicine of the AMN USSR, and by the epidemiological section of the Institute of Virology imeni D.I. Ivanovskiy AMN USSR. The Presidium also approved measures concerned with the development of the serial production of live vaccine in the Institute of Poliomyelitic Studies AMN USSR.

Director of the Psychiatry Institute imeni D.D. Fedotiv, AMN USSR reported on 2 December 1959 on the scientific research work and on the structure of that institute. Eight persons participated in a discussion of his report. In its resolution, adopted on the report, the Presidium stated that the institute is carrying out extensive scientific research devoted to urgent problems of modern psychiatry, concerns itself with the co-ordination of research in the field of psychiatry throughout the USSR, and renders scientific and methodological assistance to neuro-psychiatric institutions in the republics.

At the same time the Presidium noted that there exists a number of substantial shortcomings in the work of the institute. The structure of the institute has become obsolescent and doesnot correspond to the actual distribution of personnel in sections and laboratories. Not all of the clinics and laboratories hav staffs consisting of sufficiently qualified personnel. Overabundance of problems is to be noted in the thematic plans of the institute, expecially during the last several years. The material and technical equipment of the institute is in dire need of

renovation and expansion.

The institute does not have at its disposal its own clinical base, which has a negative effect on the work of the sections and laboratories.

The Presidium requested the Institute of Psychiatry to concentrate its attention on two problems--schizophrenia and alcoholism, and to submit for the confirmation of the Presidium a new structure of the institute, which will correspond to the demands of work on those two problems and will be worked out in co-operation with the section of clinical medicine.

The vice-president of the AMN USSR, I.V. Davydovskiy, presented on 16 December 1959 a plan on problems and topics for scientific medical research in the Soviet Union during 1960 for the examination by the Presidium.

This plan reflects the development of scientific research on 49 All-Union problems, it also reflects problemal and thematic plans for medical research in 15 republics, in which the questions of regional pathology are presented with sufficient fulness. The problem and theme plan for 1960 was worked out in accordance with the recommendations of the Presidium of AMN USSR, and is directed towards the solving of the most important problems of practical public health and medical science. It reflects the tasks placed before medical science by the 21st Congress of the CPSU, by the decree of the 13th Session of the General Assembly of AMN USSR and by the Collegium of the Ministry of Public Health USSR.

In the plan for 1956 we find a generalized analysis of the state of scientific research in the field of medicine throughout the country. The plan also provides organizational measures necessary for the successful fulfillment of the plan for 1960 for the whole range of problems.

At the same time the Presidium noted that the plan lacks sufficiently precise composition and the necessary concentration of themes in the most important phases of research. In the opinion of the Presidium, there exists in the plan the shortcoming of too many topics on a whole number of problems and medical vuzes are inadequately drawn into the conduct of scientific research.

The Presidium confirmed the project of problem and theme plan on the most important problems of the medical science in the USSR for 1960, and entrusted to the scientific planning commission of the Presidium of the AMN USSR the task of increasing and considerably strengthening its control over the conduct of scientific research. The chairmen of the commissions on problems participated in a discussion of the plan.

The Presidium confirmed the appointment of S.G. Komma in the capacity of director of the Section of Scientific and Experimental Medical Cinematography AMN USSR.

On the 30 December 1959, the Presidium heard a report by the director of the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology AMN USSR, Prof P.A. Beloshapko, "On the State of Scientific Work on the Problem of Contraception." The Presidium entrusted the bureau of the section of clinical medicine to work out and submit in co-operation with the Institute and with the problematic commission "the safeguarding of the health of the woman, the mother, and the newborn infant," a unified plan of scientific research for the immediate future concerned with the finding of new, and the perfecting of the already available, contraceptives.

M.A. Ivanova